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POLISH CONCENTRATION AND PENAL CAMPS IN POMORZE AND SLASK

Polish Western Territories contain a large number of concentration and penal camps. For the most part these camps are located in Pomorze and Clask and contain both political and criminal prisoners. Among the prisoners are many Germans, who have been imprisoned for political offenses. In some camps the Germans are in the majority.

The largest camp in Pomorze is located in Nowogard. This camp contains persons sentenced to forced labor for sabotage or endangering the public safety. Nowogard also contains a large penal camp for juveniles. Immates of the camp in Koszalin (estimated at 1,000) are used in fortification work along the Pomorze coast. The large camp at Starogard mainly contains women, girls, and mothers with children. The camp at Szczecin is generally considered to be an investigative camp, while the camp at Czluchow is evidently a transit camp. The camp at Dabis appears to have been set up to hold agents and spies.

Current reports indicate that the treatment of prisoners in the Pomorze camps is milder than that in the Slask camps. The latter camps, for the most part, have a smaller number of prisoners. The camp in Lignice /Slask/ is especially feared because of brutal treatment. The prisoners in this camp, as well as those in the camps at Zlotoryja, Lwowek Slaski, and Gubenwerden in East Brandenburg, are employed primarily in military construction. Prisoners from the camp in Walbrzych who are sent to work in the forests get lighter work than those working on fortifications. Assignment to work in quarries is a favorite method of increasing the sufferings of the forced laborers.

With the exception of army disciplinary camps at camps for deserters in Dolny Slask, the camp now under construction in Wroclaw will probably soon have the worst reputation. Reports from prisoners tell of frightful conditions already in existence at this camp.

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The priseners in the Chorzow camp (in Gorny Slask) are strictly supervised by the guards. These prisoners are used exclusively for work in underground mines, in those galleries where the greatest danger exists. The camps in Katowice and Ruda have the same reputation. The guards in these camps, as well as those in the Gorny Slask camps, are subordinate to detachments of the MVD.

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